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MONTANA FOREST PRODUCTS BULLETIN

Department of State Lands, Division of Forestry
2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Montana 59801
Ph: (406) 728-4300

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GARY G. BROWN, State Forester
PAUL MOORE, Editor

VOL. 12, NO. 3
JULY 1987

This bulletin is mailed primarily to individuals engaged in the Forest Products Industry in Montana. In addition, it is mailed to county agents, lumber brokers, wholesalers, dealers of sawmill and logging equipment, educators, and Montana Tree Farmers, as well as the Departments of Forestry in many states.

The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate information regarding the properties and uses of wood products, promote efficiency in the utilization of wood from the stump to the end product, and to serve as a information source for members of the forest products industry.

All persons receiving this newsletter are asked to examine their mailing address and advise this office of any corrections needed for proper mailing.

MONTANA'S WOOD PRODUCTS ECONOMIC UPDATE

Output of Montana's forest products plants in the first quarter of 1987 exceeded 1986's near-record pace, according to a University of Montana research office.

The quarterly estimates, compiled by the UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, are based on a survey done in cooperation with the Montana Wood Products Association. The survey includes 31 plants, accounting for over 90 percent of the State's forest products manufacturing activity.

Charles E. Keegan, director of forest products research, said the forest products industry is continuing to reach very high levels of production, especially for lumber and plywood.

He added that good markets and a mild winter were the main factors contributing to the high levels. Improved product recovery and production efficiency also played a role, he said.

Estimated lumber production during the quarter was 390 million board feet, up from 359 million board feet produced in first quarter 1986. Keegan said lumber output for first quarter 1987 represents one of the highest quarterly production levels ever.

Plywood production was also close to record-breaking levels, up from 164 million square feet in first quarter of 1986 to 178 million square feet in first quarter 1987.

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Production employment and wages were also up over first quarter 1986. An average of 4,379 production workers were on the job during first quarter 1987, compared to 4,177 for the same time in 1986. Total wages paid to production workers were $26,557,000 in first quarter 1987, compared to $26,157,000 for first quarter 1986.

The figures refer only to production workers at mill sites and do not include the several thousand workers in logging, trucking, and other related areas.

SAWMILL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

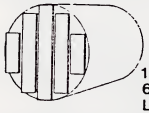
The Sawmill Improvement Program (SIP) is an industry service program established to analyze the capability of sawing systems to convert sawtimber into lumber. Practically every mill can improve its capability of converting logs into lumber.

The goal of SIP from a lumberman's viewpoint is to increase his mill's lumber recovery potential by improving manufacturing conditions in his sawing system.

To improve manufacturing conditions requires analysis of all components in a sawing system that influence the efficient conversion of logs into the desired product mix.

A SIP analysis identifies components in the sawing system where changes will result in increased lumber recovery.

One expression of the conversion capability of a sawing system is Lumber Recovery Factor (LRF). LRF is defined as the amount of nominal board feet of lumber recovered per cubic foot of green log input to a sawmill.



Relationship of green log volume, dry dressed lumber volume, and LRF

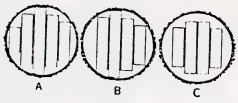
A typical SIP study consists of measuring the diameter on both ends of 100 logs and running these as a batch through the mill in the normal manner. Lumber output from these logs is carefully tallied. Measurements for thickness variation are taken on 100 boards per size class and for width variation, 20 measurements per size class.

This information, along with the type of mill, headsaw kerf, resaw kerf, planing allowance, minimum lumber trim allowance, shortest lumber saved, and sawing method, is fed to the computer for analysis and printout.

A complete SIP analysis requires that two studies be conducted. The first determines current LRF and the second determines improved LRF after changes have been made in the sawing system.

The lumber recovery improvement potential of a sawing system is determined by comparing current LRF to what we call "calculated maximum LRF."

The calculated maximum LRF is determined from computer sawing solutions on the same 100 study logs using the Best Opening Face (BOF) sawing technique.

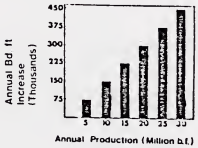


BOF sawing solutions would show that by correct positioning of sawlines and consequently the best fit, log A would yield 28 percent more lumber than the poorest fit, log C.

SIP studies already conducted have shown that today's sawing systems can consistently achieve LRF's of 8 to 11, even without full computer control.

Most of this high recovery capability is being achieved with standard equipment that is readily available. The machinery in high recovery mills is modern and properly installed, aligned, maintained, and operated. In addition, the mills have adopted some or all of the practices recommended for raising LRF.

The approximate annual board foot increase for each 0.1 improvement in LRF for a mill with an average LRF of 6.5:



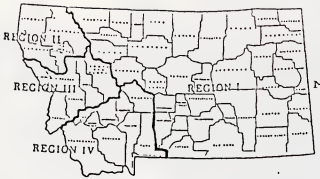
This increase in lumber recovery is realized without an increase in log input.

Follow-up studies have shown that improvements of 10 to 30 percent in lumber recovery are possible by making improvements in manufacturing conditions.

Characteristics of high recovery mills are:

1. They use narrow kerfs.
2. They salvage shorter and narrower lumber.
3. They do not oversize their lumber.
4. They utilize available equipment and programs that will help operators make better sawing decisions.
5. They run well-managed mills.

For more information on the SIP program, contact your State Forester who cooperates with the U.S. Forest Service in providing direct assistance to forest landowners, loggers, and wood-processing firms.



Office of Extension Forestry
Cooperative Extension Service
c/o School of Forestry
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812

MONTANA SAWLOG AND VENEER LOG PRICE REPORT

JULY - AUGUST 1987

The following information is a summary breakdown of recent past average prices reportedly paid by primary wood processors for logs of the various species listed. These prices are not necessarily a reflection of current market prices. Fair market prices may vary a great deal based on log size, length, quality, contract size and terms, and a number of other factors. All information reported is recent average price per thousand board feet (MBF), Scribner Decimal rule, delivered to the mill site, unless otherwise noted.

Prices provided for this report by individual firms are treated as confidential disclosure of the firm's operations. Any requests for mill-specific data which have been provided for the log report will be denied.

SAWLOGS Scribner Dec C MBF	REGION I	*	REGION II	*	REGION III	*	REGION IV	*
	Avg. Low High		Avg. Low High		Avg. Low High		Avg. Low High	
Ponderosa pine	$ 98/$ 95/$105	F/P	$168/$180/$200	G	$150/$150/$150	P		
(Yellow)	$106/$ 95/$130	F/P	$211/$185/$225	G	$211/$170/$240	G/P		
(Bull)	$101/$ 95/$110	F/P	$144/$135/$150	P	$143/$100/$175	G/P	$145/$145/$145	F
Lodgepole pine	$138/$135/$140	F	$148/$140/$180	G/F	$153/$140/$160	G/F	$170/$170/$170	G
Douglas-fir	$131/$123/$130	G/F	$157/$135/$180	F/P	$155/$145/$170	G/P	$153/$145/$165	G/F
Western larch			$125/$140/$160	F/P	$155/$145/$170	G/P		
Engelmann spruce	$133/$130/$135	G/F	$132/$140/$160	G/F	$168/$165/$170	G	$168/$165/$170	G
Subalpine fir	$123/$123/$123	G	$141/$140/$145	G/P	$144/$140/$155	F	$165/$155/$175	G
Grand fir			$139/$135/$140	F/P	$145/$140/$155	F		
Western red cedar			$170/$170/$180	G/F	$175/$150/$200	G/F		
Hemlock			$139/$130/$145	F/P	$133/$130/$135	P		
White pine			$210/$190/$250	F/G	$265/$200/$330	G		
Cottonwood	$ 55/$ 55/$ 55	P						

VENEER LOGS Scribner Dec C MBF	STATEWIDE REPORT	
Species	Avg. Low High	Demand next 60 days*
Douglas-fir	$140/$135/$180	G/P
White Fir & Lodgepole	$151/$135/$180	G/F
Western larch	$150/$125/$170	G/P
Engelmann spruce	$154/$130/$170	G/F

* Demand next 60 days

G = Good
F = Fair
P = Poor

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS TIMBER SALES

Lower Stillwater/Martin Camp Timber Sale:

Sealed bids will be received by the Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Montana, up to 2:00 p.m., July 21, 1987, for the merchantable sawtimber designated for cutting on Lots 1, 4, W½NE¼, Section 19; Lot 3, Section 20; SW¼NW¼, Section 29; Lot 3, NE¼SW¼, Section 30; NE¼, Lots 1, 2, E½NW¼, Section 31, all in T32N-R23W, M.P.M., estimated to contain 283 MBF western larch, 142 MBF Douglas-fir, 154 MBF spruce, 246 MBF lodgepole pine, 92 MBF white fir, and 224 MBF dead lodgepole pine for a total of 1,141 MBF, more or less.

Full particulars regarding the terms of the contract regulations governing the sale and bid forms may be obtained from the Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, in Missoula; the Northwestern Land Office, 2250 Highway #93 North, Kalispell; or the Stillwater Unit, Department of State Lands Office located at Olney, Montana.

Lake Mary Ronan Timber Sale:

Sealed bids will be received by the Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Montana, up to 3:00 p.m., July 21, 1987, for the merchantable sawtimber designated for cutting on Section 16, T25N-R21W, and Sections 16 and 26, T25N-R22W, estimated to contain 1,001 MBF ponderosa pine, 158 MBF western larch, 954 MBF Douglas-fir, 17 MBF spruce, 101 MBF lodgepole pine, 25 MBF white fir and 1 MBF dead all species, for a total of 2,257 MBF, more or less.

Full particulars regarding the terms of the contract regulations governing the sale and bid forms may be obtained from the Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, in Missoula, or the Northwestern Land Office, 2250 Highway #93 North, Kalispell.

Rainbow Lake Timber Sale:

Sealed bids will be received by the Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, Missoula, Montana, up to 2:00 p.m., July 20, 1987, for the merchantable sawtimber designated for cutting in Section 4, T20N-R25W estimated to contain 74 MBF ponderosa pine, 22 MBF Douglas-fir, and 1 MBF dead (all species) more or less, for a total estimated volume of 97 MBF.

East Compbest Creek Timber Sale:

Sealed bids will be received by the Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, Missoula, Montana up to 3:00 p.m., July 20, 1987 for the merchantable sawtimber designated for cutting in the NW¼NW¼, Section 14, T19N-R26W, estimated to contain 80 MBF ponderosa pine, 16 MBF Douglas-fir, 5 MBF western larch and 1 MBF dead (all species) more or less, for a total estimated volume of 102 MBF.

Full particulars regarding the terms of the contract regulations governing the Rainbow Lake and East Compbest Creek sales above and bid forms may be obtained from the Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, in Missoula; the Northwestern Land Office in Kalispell; or the Plains Unit Office in Plains, Montana.

MEETINGS

Manufacturing Eastside Forest Products Issues and Answers, the Inland Empire Section of the Forest Products Research Society will be holding its fall meeting September 9-11, 1987, at the Huntley Lodge, in Big Sky, Montana.

The meeting is scheduled to be a three day event with two days of technical presentations dealing with timber management and supply issues, lumber export marketing, and lumber manufacturing. One day will devoted to tours of Eastside Manufacturing facilities.

For more information, contact Charles Keegan, Program Chairman, (406)-243-5513. Additional information will follow in the next issue of the Marketing Bulletin.

Sawmill Profit Workshop, September 15-17, 1987, Missoula, Montana. This program, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, the Montana Department of State Lands, and the Bitterroot RC&D, will feature working with the PC computers, which will emphasize software programs on Log Analysis BOF, and Lumber and Veneer Variations. Instructors will be from the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin.

For more information, contact Paul Moore, the Marketing Bulletin Editor at (406)-542-4300.

Lumber Drying Workshop, August 3-7, 1987, University of California, Berkeley Forest Products Laboratory, Richmond, California. While this workshop is intended primarily for dry kiln operators and supervisors of the lumber drying process, it will also be helpful to salesmen, fabricators, and others whose work involves the use of dry lumber. No previous experience is necessary for participation.

This workshop will discuss how to solve specific drying problems. It will give participants an understanding of why wood behaves as it does while drying, and will discuss how drying practices can be modified and improved to reduce costs and improve quality.

For more information contact Tom Breiner at (415)-231-9487.

SERVICES WANTED

Item 1: Milling operation or person(s) interested in doing custom planing, resaw, or cut-to-size work for a Montana Corporation. Any interested person(s) call toll free: 1-800-223-3434, ask for Brett.

Item 2: Sawmill interested in selling 1" mill run rough boards in truckload quantities. Any interested person(s) please call: 1-800-223-3434, ask for Brett.

FOR SALE PRODUCTS

¼" to 2 ½" dia. x 16 ft. lg. or larger dowels available in lengths up to 10 ft. long. Balls, bases, blocks, electronic parts, handles, knobs, moulding, plugs, reels, rollers, shaping spools, toyparts, wedges and wheels, available in plain, dip spray or tumble finishes. We treat for outside use. Also, Cooper's and food processor supplies. Many other wood products to customer specs. Contact: Ed Koelbl, American Wood Working Co., P.O. Box 335, Montello, Wisconsin 53949 phone (608)-297-2131.

FOR SALE EQUIPMENT

Logging Equipment for Sale: Cable Skidders - 1) '80 JD440C new paint, new tires $21,000; 2) JD 540A 18.4x34 tires $10,800; 3) '80 JD 540B new paint, new tires $22,500; 4) JD 640 24.5x32 tires $19,500; 5) '79 Franklin 170XL $14,500; 6) Tree Farmer C6D $13,500; 7) '77 Tree Farmer C5D $13,500; 8) Timberjack 240D Eaton axles $15,250; 9) '80 Timberjack 240D $19,500; 10) C4 Tree Farmer $6,500. Grapple Skidders: 11) '80 JD 540B $25,500; 12) '79 JD 540B $22,500; 13) '79 Tree Farmer C5D Esko 26 $21,000; 14) '76 Timberjack 240D $15,500; 15) '80 JD 540B needs repair $12,500. Feller Bunchers: 16) Franklin 170 Wheel Loader 20" Shear $23,500; 17) '76 Drott 40 with 20" shear $32,500. Miscellaneous: 18) Franklin 170XL Pack-a-Back 453 GM $17,500; 19) Husky 141 Knuckleboom 353GM $7,800; 20) Prentice H loader $4,800; 21) Prentice 110, loader needs repair $3,000; 22) Go Track carrier with National Crane 453GM; 23) '74 Freightliner c/o with 3406 CAT 13 speed 0 miles major $8,500; 24) '52 "Utility" LoBoy 32 foot $3,150; 25) Other equipment located but not listed; also new and used parts at discount. Midwest Tractor Inc., Highway 10 West, Big Lake, Minnesota 55309. Phone (612)-263-3777 or Ron (612)-295-5037 evenings.

For Sale: Gorgeous North Idaho location. Small wood products mill with dry kiln. Serious inquiries only. Contact: Bonners Ferry Post Company, P.O. Box 855, Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805. Phone (208)-267-2211.

For Sale: New Foley-Belsaw Sawmill. All steel construction 46" headsaw plus many extras. $4,000 or trade for cattle or sheep. Contact: Robin Lipinski, 595 Patrick Cr. Rd., Kalispell, Montana 59901. Phone (406)-752-6027 evenings.

For Sale: Sawmill, planer (all patterns, including log home), gangsaw and band resaw (for producing all sizes, including metric) facilities, available for primary log and cant breakdown, custom planing, and/or intransit remanufacturing. Owner will consider custom processing proposals, equipment lease, or option-to-purchase proposals on these facilities. Will share markets and accept product or processing as partial payment. Contact: Larry Watters, P.O. Box 666, Thompson Falls, Montana 59873. Phone (406)-827-3595.

For Sale Equipment: Stationary circle sawmill 40 MBF per shift hydraulic dogs, hydraulic log turner, live log deck, verticle arbor edger, mill is dissembled. Willing to trade or negociate for rubber tire skidder. Please contact Gary Murphy (406)-782-5131, RFD #2, Browns Gulch, Butte, Montana 59701.

If you wish to advertise a forest product or a piece of wood-processing machinery in this bulletin complete the form below. No charge is made for this service. If you wish to rerun an item, a written request must be submitted before the next issue.

NAME OF PERSON OR FIRM: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

Type or print your advertisement in the space below, detach and return to:

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Division of Forestry
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